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*Written Testimony before the Human Services Committee*

*Elizabeth B. Ritter on behalf of the State Department on Aging*

*January 29, 2015*

Senator Moore, Representative Abercrombie, Senator Markley, Representative Wood and distinguished members of the Human Services Committee. My name is Betsy Ritter. I am the Commissioner of the State Department on Aging. I am pleased to offer testimony regarding Proposed Bill No. 5358 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR RESIDENTS OF CONTINUING-CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES.

Growing numbers of baby boomers – the fastest growing segment of our population - are crossing the threshold into retirement and becoming classified as “older persons” in CT. As a state we have been working to support and accommodate aging at home which means promoting consumer choice in both residency and caregivers. For some, rather than moving directly from a person’s home in the community into an assisted living facility or a nursing home, they are moving to continuing-care retirement communities (CCRCs) and funding this move themselves.

We recognize the importance of providing protections to older persons, regardless of where they reside, and understand that other states, such as New York and New Jersey, have made changes in law to strengthen the protections in place for residents of CCRCs. As the bill moves forward, we would welcome the opportunity to be a resource regarding the needs of this changing demographic and how they can be addressed effectively.

Thank you for your time and consideration.